

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Canceled).

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein the combustion is carried out at a temperature ranging from 900 to 1250°C, which is controlled by the amount of combustion air.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein the formed flue gases are cooled below 600 °C by mixing water and/or air and/or colder flue gas to said formed flue gases.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein an aqueous solution containing dissolved alkali metal carbonates is poured on the walls of the cooling zone.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein a waste concentrate having a solids content of at least about 25% by weight is combusted.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein a stoichiometric excess of limestone and/or burnt lime with respect to sulfur and silicate compounds contained in the waste concentrate to be combusted is added to the combustion.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein ~~lime stone~~ limestone and/or burnt lime is added in a finely pulverized form to a waste concentrate to be combusted prior to drying thereof.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein the waste concentrate to be combusted is a dry powder.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein the waste concentrate to be combusted is a spent liquor concentrate from impregnation and/or bleaching of mechanical or chemi-mechanical pulp.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the formed flue gases are cooled below 600 °C by mixing water and/or air and/or colder flue gas to said formed flue gases.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein an aqueous solution containing dissolved alkali metal carbonates is poured on the walls of the cooling zone.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein an aqueous solution containing dissolved alkali metal carbonates is poured on the walls of the cooling zone.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein a waste concentrate having a solids content of at least about 25% by weight is combusted.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein a waste concentrate having a solids content of at least about 25% by weight is combusted.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein a stoichiometric excess of limestone and/or burnt lime with respect to sulfur and silicate compounds contained in the waste concentrate to be combusted is added to the combustion.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein a stoichiometric excess of limestone and/or burnt lime with respect to sulfur and silicate compounds contained in the waste concentrate to be combusted is added to the combustion.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein ~~lime-stone~~ limestone and/or burnt lime is added in a finely pulverized form to a waste concentrate to be combusted prior to drying thereof.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein ~~lime-stone~~ limestone and/or burnt lime is added in a finely pulverized form to a waste concentrate to be combusted prior to drying thereof.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the waste concentrate to be combusted is a dry powder.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the waste concentrate to be combusted is a spent liquor concentrate from impregnation and/or bleaching of mechanical or chemi-mechanical pulp.

Claim 21. (New) A method for combusting an organic waste concentrate containing alkali metal compounds, said combustion being carried out at a temperature of at least 850°C, and flue gases formed during the combustion are cooled by mixing a colder medium to the flue gases, wherein the combustion is carried out under oxidative conditions in the presence of excess air for recovering said alkali metal compounds as alkali metal carbonates, to be dissolved in water to form a recoverable aqueous solution, said flue gases being cooled below a sticking temperature range of the alkali metal carbonates simultaneously as water or a

recirculated aqueous solution is poured on the walls of a cooling zone at least at the sticking temperature range to create a water film covering said walls.